Glover's Breeders' and Cockers' Guide

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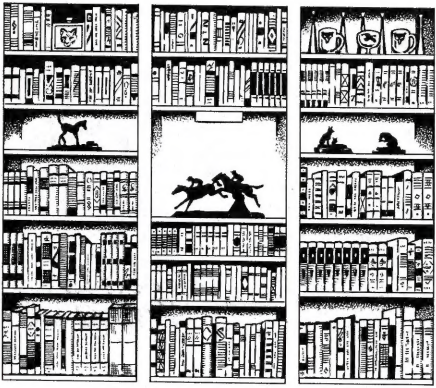
BY F. R. GLOVER, CORTLAND, N. Y.



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JOHN AND MARTHA DANIELS

Glover's Breeders' and Cockers' Guide

F. R. GLOVER

Author and Proprietor

FOURTH EDITION

INTRODUCTION

This is the Fourth Edition of my Breeders' & Cockers' Guide and I have endeavored to give it a few little finishing touches which I trust will make it even more valuable than the preceeding issues, which have been called by many the greatest cocking works ever written.

I do not claim to be the only authority on breeding high class pit stock but I do claim to have made a deep study of the science of breeding such stock and to have bred as consistent winners as any man in the business.

In this book I endeavor to show my friends and customers how to breed fowl that are fit for the pit and how to keep them fit as well as how to put them in the best possible condition for the supreme test.

In Part III, Poultry Diseases, you have the benefit of my years of experience in the treatment and cure of poultry diseases of all kinds. Probably no man in this country has made a more thorough study of poultry diseases, their causes,

symptoms, treatment and cure, than I. Here you will find the result of this study.

I believe that any many of ordinary intelligence, who will read this book carefully and follow the methods here given, will find himself able to breed, condition, heel, handle and care for his stock in a manner that will land him a consistent winner against the best men that he will meet. And you have the added satisfaction of depending on your own resources and winning on your own merits.

Glover's Conditioning Powder

It gives you a little something that you can not get from feed and work alone.

PART ONE

Glover's Breeders' Guide

THE BROOD YARD

O. W. Holmes says, "A child's education should begin 100 years before it is born."

Following along this line, breeders of consistent winning stock have found that they must begin to prepare their cocks for the pit at least one year before they are hatched. In other words, when you select and mate up your brood stock, you lay the foundation for either success or failure in the pit.

There are many things that must be taken into consideration in selecting your brood stock. First of all we must assume that you have fowl that are deep game. This is one, and practically the only, characteristic which you cannot breed into your fowl. There are men, some of them able writers, who will tell you that you can breed game fowl from fowl with a cold cross. I say to you, avoid such council as you would the plague, for you will pay dearly if you follow it.

Allowing that your fowl are game, the next essential to make them prime brood stock is that they be healthy, vigorous fowl. Both cock and hens must be hardy stock, well matured and in a high state of health to secure best results. Young pullets or hens that have been stunted or debilitated by neglect, abuse or disease do not lay eggs containing strong healthy germs, no matter how game the blood, and if used, they will throw you inferior, sickly, runty young stock.

Now that we have our stock both game and in the pink of health, we must consider the type of fowl. Like is pretty sure to produce like, with the usual exceptions to prove the rule, and it is our aim to bring out and intensify all the good qualities of the parent stock in the fowl which will be our pit fowl of next year.

Every man who has ever seen a cock fight has a picture in his mind's eye of his ideal pit cock. This is a good thing as it gives him a goal to work for. I shall not endeavor to tell you how many feathers your brood cock shall have in each wing or how many scales should be on an ideal shank. Some writers give such minute instructions for selecting an ideal brood cock that, if you

could secure old Diogenes lantern with which to search, you would have more trouble to find a cock having all the given characteristics than did the old gentleman to find his honest man.

A few things are essential. I prefer a cock of medium size although some breeders seem to believe that they must breed an extra heavy cock in order to get good sized young. This is a mistake and, stick a pin in this, if you wish to increase the weight of your fowl, breed a medium sized cock to heavy hens.

With a medium sized cock you usually get medium sized bone which is what you want. Select a cock with a short shank, spurs set well down on the leg and a long thigh jointed well down on the body. This gives your cock a long, strong stroke. He should be broad on the back and across the shoulders, tapering toward the tail and flat on the breast. The wings should be long, the tail full and his whole plumage should be close, firm and brilliant and his eyes bright. See that wing muscles are well developed and run well up on body. He should have a strong neck ending in a broad head having a short, stout beak.

In selecting your cock's action you must select the cock whose action suits you best. Many prefer a single stroke, sparring cock.

Others prefer a shuffler. My preference is a combination cock, a cock that breaks clean but one that will shuffle himself out of a tight place or when his gaffs hang.

As to color, suit yourself. No man of experience believes that a red cock can win over a white one or a black over a blue, except by accident, if the other cock is the better fighter and as well conditioned, heeled and handled.

You will not find all of the characteristics that I have mentioned in your brood cock. Select the one that comes nearest to the model and next year you may have one nearer. Breed him to the best hens in this year's yard and the year after you will be nearer the goal and so on.

In selecting your brood hens, you will select hens much after the manner of the cock. They should have broad backs and good bone and station and, if spurred, should be spurred well down on the leg, the same as the cock. Early pullets or two year old hens are the best egg producers but many times it is advisable to keep a hen as long as possible for a hen that throws high class stags is valuable above all else in a brood yard and should be highly prized.

Both cock and hens should be of an active disposition as it is the active hens that throw the best stags, and it is the active cock that gives you the fertile eggs. Avoid a wild or man-shy cock. The mild, "talking" cock makes the best brood cock and gets the best dispositioned stags and disposition counts for much in the conditioning pen and in the pit.

Opinion differs greatly as to the number of hens to breed with a cock. For yarded fowl, I believe that six to ten hens is the proper number. Much depends on the activeness and vitality of the cock. On free range, an active, vigorous cock will care for 12 to 20 hens. One year I bred 16 hens under one cock on a farm and their eggs were practically all fertile and hatched as strong, healthy chicks as I have ever seen.

Some men follow the single mating but I believe that the only time when this is advisable is when you wish to get a bunch of full sisters for a breeding pen. Once you have them you can breed ten of them as well as one for your blood line is the same. In single mating only allow cock with hen for an hour or so each day. If cock is left with hen, you will soon have a broken down hen, and your eggs will hatch weak, worthless chicks.

Nature intended a cock to care for a flock of hens and better results are obtained in this manner.

Always breed a stag to hens and a cock to hens or pullets, never a stag to pullets.

CROSSING

If you feel that you must make an out cross on your fowl, be careful in making your selection of stock. Never cross hit-or-miss. Breed one pure strain on another and select strains having as many of the same characteristics as possible and intensify the good qualities by inbreeding. It is not necessary to cross strains of the same color but it is preferable. If you do cross different colored strains, you will note that color and type in the offspring usually go together. That is, if you cross a red on a grey, you will find that the red chicks will show the characteristics of the red parent more strongly than those of the grey parent and the grey offspring the characteristics of the grey parent more strongly than those of the red parent.

Crossing is really an expensive and dangerous pastime. It usually brings out a few phenomenal fighters and this is what lends

enchantment to the experiment, but a few high class fighters and a lot of dubs do not win mains. The strain which throws consistent winners and which can be depended upon to show this quality in its offspring is the strain to tie to. Your crossing experience is pretty sure to cost you money.

Much has been said with regard to the price at which pit stock is sold. Some writers contend that it costs the breeder who sells cocks at $10.00 each no more to raise and market his fowl than it does the man who sells his cocks at $3.00 and $4.00 each. They talk about the cost of feed and the cost of walking and they forget entirely that which has in many cases cost the breeder tens and hundreds of times more money. That is, his experience. When you employ a doctor you don't expect to pay him just for the medicine which he uses and for his time in making the call. No, you have to pay him for his years spent in college and for the experience he has acquired in his practice. It is so with the lawyer and it is so with every professional man. Why should the breeder not have pay for his experience? Many times he has spent much money and a score of years in perfecting a strain and bringing it to the point where

he feels that it is able to win consistently against the best fowl of our land. Can he afford to sell this stock at the same price as the man who has secured a good cock here and a prime hen there, not taking into consideration those men who have not been careful to do even this, and has crossed them hit-or-miss and is offering the offspring for sale as world-beaters? Certainly he cannot and, if you buy from each, you will find that when you pay more and buy not only a thing of feathers, bone and blood but also the experience of a painstaking breeder, you are getting a much better bargain.

THE BROOD COOP

The size and style of your brood coop will depend much on the size of your flock and the locality in which you live. You should have at least 10 square feet of floor space for each fowl, and they should have all the range possible. Nothing equals free range, but if you must yard your fowl, allow at least 100 square feet of yard to a fowl.

The open front type of poultry house seems to be the most sanitary and the healthiest house possible. The opening should al-

ways be toward the South, and, in cold climates, should be covered with a cloth curtain to keep out the snow.

Dry soil is very essential around a brood house. For this reason you should build on a rise of ground if possible and the shed style of roof gives you dryer ground in front of the house than a gable roof as the rain all runs off at the back. Whatever the size or style of your brood house see that it is always clean, dry and well ventilated, not by cracks and holes but by a system that gives your fowl plenty of fresh air with no draughs. Sanitary conditions help to keep your fowl healthy and vigorous and fit to produce their like.

THE EGG

Even after you haev a brood yard of high class and have them properly housed, if you wish to produce fertile eggs, that will throw you strong, vigorous stock, you must give close attention to your fowl's diet.

Eggs are made from what we call surplus food, that is, food that is not needed to sustain the body. Therefore a laying hen must have a libedal diet. This diet must contain the elements of the egg, fat, mineral matter and

albumen. The grains, especially corn, buckwheat, wheat and barley and many of the vegetables, particularly potatoes, contain the necessary fats. All of the grains contain mineral matter sufficient for a non-laying hen but a laying hen should be supplied with oyster shells at all times. 14% of the 26% of solids in an egg are albumen. None of the grains supply albumen in sufficient quantities for consistent egg production. It is therefore necessary to supply the hen with other foods which are rich in albumen. Meat scraps, milk and green bone are all excellent and meat meal is the richest in albumen of any of the commercial foods. Of course hens on free range, during the warm months, will supply this class of food as bugs, worms and the like fill the bill but it is during the Winter and with yarded hens that we must supply the deficiency.

Grit, Oyster Shells and pure water should be before your fowl at all times and they should be supplied liberally with green foods. Cabbage, turnips, apples and sprouted oats are excellent.

If you have healthy, vigorous stock and pay close attention to furnishing them with the proper diet, you are pretty sure of eggs with strong, vigorous germs.

HATCHING

I will assume that you are to use hens for hatching. If you use an incubator, you will find your nest ready made and you will not have to feed or water. The manufacturer will furnish full instructions for running his machine for best results. In using hens use medium sized ones. If you set your game hens they are alright. Never set a wild hen.

Use a good sized nest to allow hen to move about freely. Fill one-half full of new earth making the bottom of the nest flat so that eggs will not pile up in the center. Cover with soft hay or straw making nest slightly higher at the outside, to keep eggs from rolling out. If the eggs are fouled in any manner, they should be washed in warm water and replaced under hen at once. Feed hen corn and give fresh water daily.

In selecting eggs for hatching always select medium sized eggs with smooth, even shells.

CHICKS WITH HENS

Take chicks from the nest as they hatch, to avoid crushing, and remove all empty shells, but hens that are later to have broods should not have all chicks removed and, if they are of various colors, leave at least one of each color to avoid later trouble.

Mark the chicks as you remove them from the nest. This will avoid mistakes and guess work later and guess work must be avoided if we wish to attain success.

Do not feed the chicks for 24 to 48 hours after hatching. When all are out, if the weather is mild, place them with their mother in the coop which is to be their home for a few weeks. In case the weather is cold the chicks should be kept indoors for a few days and afterwards their coop should be placed in an open shed if possible. Always set coop on an elevation to provide a dry floor even during rainy weather. Any good, roomy coop, that has a good roof and three tight sides, with sufficient light for the hen, is O. K. A coop 2 by 3 feet is large enough. It should have no bottom but must be on dry ground. Set coops facing South and well apart, to avoid vicious hens killing strange chicks, and move every day, either forward or sidewise, so as

not to feed chicks on fouled ground. Scald water vessels every few days to keep them sweet and clean.

A good first feed for young chicks is a little bread soaked in sweet milk and squeezed dry, or probably the best of all is a little hard boiled egg. There are many successful methods of chick feeding. Thousands of young chicks are raised every year on corn meal mash and, while I much prefer dry grain feeding, I know of many successful poultrymen who feed wet mashes. The danger of wet mash feeding is in the manner of feeding. Never feed sloppy feed and see that both feed and feed dishes are always sweet and clean. If you allow moulds to develop or food to become sour you are sure of trouble and plenty of it.

I believe that the best method of feeding is to use one of the commercial chick feeds until chicks are large enough to eat whole wheat and cracked corn. On free range the best plan is to have food where young stock can get it at any time they wish.

For cooped chicks, and I regret very much if you must coop your young stock, regular feeding times should be had and you should be very careful not to feed more than they will eat up clean as it is liable to sour; even whole grains sour quickly if they become wet.

Give chick grit to all sizes of chicks and see that they have free access to charcoal. This is neither a grit or food but it is a great purifier and will assist your fowl to be healthy and vigorous. You should also supply yarded chicks with moderate amounts of fresh ground meat and green bone.

As your chicks outgrow the coop and become independent of the hen, they should be provided with a good place to roost at night . An open shed facing the South is a fine thing for young stock. On wet days it makes a good place for them to scratch for their grain ration and at night it makes a far better roosting place than a tree. Many men are too prone to allow their young stock to roost out in trees and on fences and, when the cold, Fall rains come, they develop colds that run into roup and in this way the seed is sowed for sickly stock all Winter, unless proper methods are taken to overcome the trouble and, as prevention is better than cure, so proper care of the young stock in the Fall is better than doctoring them half the Winter.

It is a good plan to trim all early stags the last of August or the first of September. Trim close to the head and the comb will flatten out with its later growth and make a

fine looking job. At this time stags lose but little blood and hence are not weakened.

As the season grows later it is necessary to bring in your young stock and house them for the Winter. The best plan is to separate the stags from the pullets and, when possible the pullets should be separated into small flocks, the different ages by themselves, as they will do much better than where all sizes run together. The stags do very well moved into the cock house until they can be removed to their farm walks. When you bring in a cock or a main of cocks put a stag in place of each. In this way you will hold the walk and also will get a stag out for another cock next year.

This is the Best Punch for Marking Small Chicks.

COOP WALKING

Many times it is necessary to coop walk stags and cocks, in sections where there is an antipathy against the game cock or where farm walks are not abundant. Coop walking can be done very successfully by any painstaking man and has the advantage that you have your fowl always under your personal attention. Another advantage is that half your cocks are not reported dead or come in from walks all battered up. The disadvantage is that a well farm walked cock is the superior of a coop walked one.

There is nothing particular about the size of your coops or runs for cooped cocks. The larger the better but I have coop walked cocks very successfully in coops 3 by 3 feet and with runs 3 by 16 feet. It is best to have coops and runs movable so that they can be moved to new ground often. Where this is impossible, the ground in the runs should be spaded often and oats sowed and raked into the new ground. The cock will scratch out some of the oats and some will sprout and make green stuff for him.

Care must be taken to keep these small coops clean and free from lice, and grit and

charcoal should be before the fowl at all times. Fresh water must be supplied daily, care being taken to keep water cups sweet and clean and green stuff fed liberally.

A whole grain ration is the best to keep a fowl hard and firm of flesh but an occasional soft mash should be given to which has been added meat scrap or some animal food. Feed nothing but the best of grains, never musty or mouldy grain under any circumstances. Wheat and oats are great muscle builders and corn and buckwheat supply the necessary fat. Vary your grain ration as much as possible as a fowl likes a change in deit as well as a man.

Any man who loves the game cock can see at a glance if he is feeling fit. If you see one of your cocks that does not eat well or that droops or acts listless, do not neglect him but look for the cause of his indisposition. See if he has lice, is crop bound, runs at the nose or has bowel trouble. There is a cause, if he is not on his toes and you should find it and correct it at once.

Now we have followed our cocks from the brood yard through each stage of their development to the time when they are ready to be taken up and conditioned for the supreme

effort of their lives. This is where we learn as to the true worth of our breeding. You may lose but that is not an indication that you have made a failure. Other men are well posted on breeding high class pit stock besides ourselves and you may have met one of these men. Failure only spurs on to renewed effort and the next meeting may turn defeat into victory.

PART TWO

Glover's Cocking Guide

PICKING UP THE BIRDS

I will infer that you have plenty of fresh cocks on walk to select your show from. Coop walked cocks, if well cared for, show up well, but seldom are equal to farm walked cocks.

Pick up the cocks in the day time, making them fly at a cock held in your hands. While each cock is flying at the cock in your hands, you can judge pretty well what kind of an actor he is. If he does not get up in good shape and show plenty of action, leave him on his walk as he is either out of shape or else worthless. If your cock lacks fighting qualities no system or amount of working can make him a winning cock. If there is any doubt as to his action leave him on his walk.

Some men will tell you never to put up a thin cock, but I tell you to discard a fat cock, rather than a thin one, unless the lack of flesh is due to illness. You bring in a fat cock, a pound over weight, and bring him down

to fighting weight in 14 days, and you cannot help impairing his strength. You bring in a thin cock, and if properly fed during conditioning period he will gain weight and strength every day. The best cocks I ever fought gained in weight under condition. These cocks came from walks where they were obliged to hustle for what they got and were thin in flesh but hard as nails. The few days in the conditioning coop, with enough to eat and plenty of work, just put them in prime shape.

HOW TO CONDITION A FAT COCK

Some men will bring in a fat cock and take a pound of flesh off of him in a few days and think that they are conditioning him. Possibly you are one of these men. If so, I will advise you of a far better method. In the first place never physic a cock that you are conditioning in order to reduce his weight. You cannot physic a cock without weakening him and that is just what you do not wish to do. If you have a fat cock that you wish to fight, bring him in a couple of weeks before the other cocks, place him in a large, light coop with the floor covered with 18 inches of straw and feed him sparingly of wheat and

oats, with plenty of fresh water and grit. Make him earn every kernel of grain, by digging it out of the straw, and when you come to put him up with the other cocks notice how hard and firm his flesh is. This method beats physic every time and this kind of a cock whips the physicked one too.

COOPING THE COCKS

You should put up twice as many cocks as you wish to fight, but of course if your cocks are limited you cannot do this.

Coops should be at least three feet square and should have a roost three inches wide. You should also have one larger coop to use in conditioning. The floor of this coop should be covered deeply with clean straw and a few kernels of wheat should be thrown among the straw. Into this coop you should place each cock after working him, and he will cool off gradually in working for the wheat.

When brought in, cocks should be placed in their coops, the floors of which have been lightly covered with straw, and just before night each cock should be given a cup of bread and sweet milk. This will gently act on the system and empty the cock out.

Just before placing the cocks in their coops cut the feathers from around vent and apply sassafrass and sweet oil in equal parts around vent and under wings to rid the fowl of mites and lice. Cut the tip ends of the wings and tail feathers which causes them to dry out and become hard. Next saw off the spurs to about one half an inch in length and if they bleed too freely rub over with chalk or sear with a hot iron. Heel cutting should be done with a small saw made for that purpose.

The next morning after putting the cocks up each coop should be cleaned and new litter placed on the floor, each cock weighed, and his feet and legs washed, after which he should be returned to his coop. Tack a card on the front of each coop and keep each cock's weight as he is weighed each morning. This weight list is a regular barometer of a cock's condition. A cock that is over weight should lose flesh gradually and a cock that is thin should gradually gain, but if a cock loses weight too fast or if his weight is first down and then up and continues to be irregular you should look for the cause. His food may be physicking him or he may have a cold, but the chances are that something is wrong, and you will not be far wrong if you put him out of the show.

After having weighed all the cocks, and returned them to their coops, match them in pairs of as near equal weights as possible, and after muffling them, spar them in your pit. This is where you should get a line on your cocks. Watch the stroke and notice which cocks fight high and which low. If you find that you have a wing fighter or a ducking, dodging cock that gives his head, put him out of the show.

I say, put these cocks out of your show, because I am writing this book for the man who fights cocks to win and a man must fight good cocks to do this. Of course if you are fighting for a few dollars and for the sport, then you can fight these cocks and sometimes win, but the chances are against fighting a cock that is off, either on condition or action, and if you wish to win your fights, you will watch your cocks and sort them pretty close.

A WORD ABOUT SPARRING

Spar your cocks only twice during conditioning period. Once on the day after picking them up and again on the tenth day. The first time you can learn the style of your cock and the last time how his condition has

affected him. Continual sparring stiffens your cocks and lessens their activity.

When you are sparring your cocks always pit them near together. This gives them the idea that when they are pitted they are to fight at once. If pitted far apart they are liable to walk around and pick up the tan bark, and many a cock has been killed while doing this, before he got started. Get your cocks in the notion of fighting the minute they are set down, by starting them at close quarters when sparring them and they will make a quick start when pitted for the coin.

FEED

Feed is quite important but not so much so as some would have you believe. That is, of course proper feeding is necessary, but no secret method is essential to success.

It is not a good plan to entirely change a cock's diet. If he has been on a farm run, and has been fed on whole grains, it is not a good idea to change his feed to soft feeds and omit the grains entirely, as the system being accustomed to the whole grains may become disarranged, which is just what we wish to

avoid. I am giving below a regular menu for each day of the conditioning period. You may vary this to suit the individual needs of your cocks but it will be found to be a first class foundation to work upon.

Recipe for the conditioning bread will be found at the end of this chapter.

1st day—Day of picking the cocks up. Bread and milk at night.

2nd day—Morning feed should come at 6:00 a. m. Noon feed at 12:00 m. Night feed at 6:00 p. m. Always be regular in your feeding and if a cock has feed in his crop at feeding time do not feed him until the next regular feeding time. When a cock fails to eat up his feed in a short time take it away and do not forget to put a dish of grit in each coop.

"Cup" in this keep means an ordinary teacup.

Morning feed, second day should consist of a half cup of wheat bread dampened with sweet milk.

Noon feed, a cup of conditioning bread and a very little fresh beef.

Night feed, a liberal feed of wheat, clipped oats or barley.

Grains are improved by soaking in warm water for an hour or so.

3rd day—Morning feed, two or three, according to size, raw oysters. Oysters may be chopped if desired. Some cocks eat them more readily chopped. Noon feed, one-half a cup of conditioning bread and one-half of the white of a boiled egg mixed. Night feed, a liberal feed of grain. Grains should be alternated. Cocks should have all the feed that they will digest between feeds. Watch each cock and govern feeds accordingly. You will find that plenty of feed and plenty of work will make the winning cock. No starved cocks for me.

4th day—Morning feed, a raw egg or if cock will not eat it raw, one-half of a boiled egg. Noon feed, a cup of conditioning bread and a small piece of an apple or a little chopped cabbage. Night feed, grain as before.

5th day—A cup of conditioning bread for the morning feed; two or three raw oysters at noon and a grain feed at night.

Your cocks are beginning to feel their work now and are coming in shape. Coops must be kept very clean and a little lime sprinkled on the floor of the coops will prevent bad odors.

6th day—One-half of a boiled egg in the morning. A small feed of grain at noon and a cup of conditioning bread at night.

7th day—For a morning feed, a little fresh beef mixed with a half cup of moistened wheat bread. A raw egg at noon and the grain feed at night.

8th day—Two or three raw oysters in the morning, a cup of the conditioning bread at noon and the grain feed at night.

9th day—A raw egg for breakfast. A small cup of the conditioning bread and a piece of apple at noon and the grain feed at night.

10th day—Oysters for breakfast, a cup of moistened wheat bread and a little fresh beef at noon and a cup of conditioning bread at night.

11th day—An egg for breakfast, conditioning bread for dinner and a grain feed for supper.

12th day—A little fresh beef and one-helf a cup of wheat bread for breakfast. Oysters for dinner and conditioning bread for supper.

13th day—One-half of an apple or a few chopped onions for breakfast, a raw egg for dinner and a grain feed for supper.

14th day—day of battle. An egg or oysters in the morning if fight is to be at night. This is the last feed. If you are to fight in the morning give cock a few bites of an apple before going in the pit.

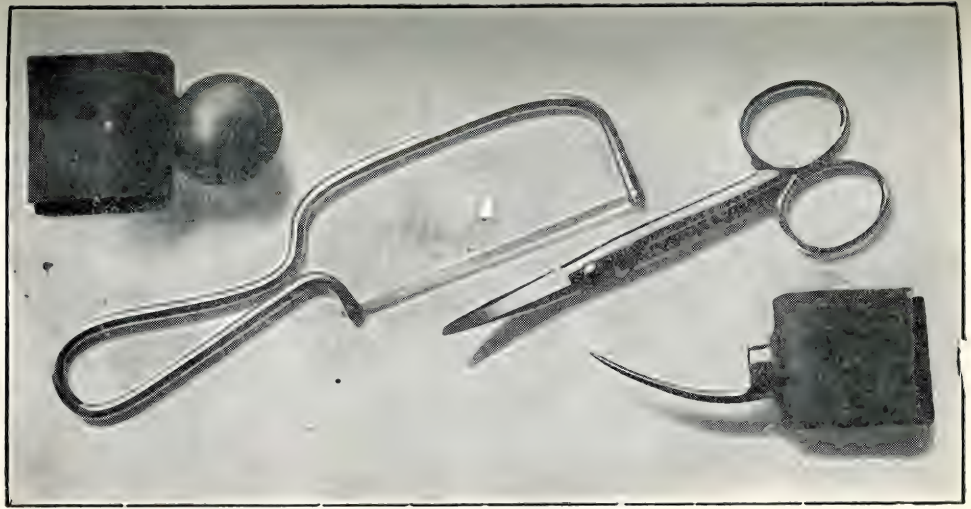
Should the bowels of any of your cocks become too loose during condition give them a little boiled rice at a regular feeding time and omit the other feed.

One part Epsom salts and three parts fresh butter make a fine physic if you find that you have a cock that seems to need it.

You will find that you will have up cocks that will not be able to digest the full amount of the above table, but watch your cocks, and feed them accordingly. The cock that eats the feed and works down in good shape is the cock that has the strength and gets the money.

Give your cocks plenty of water during the conditioning period as lack of water causes cocks to become muscle bound and is liable to cause fever which is something you must avoid.

You will find also that, no matter how well fed and worked a cock may be, if you use a good conditioning powder together with the same feed and work, you will have more speed, pep and stamina than without it and these are essential to winning battles.



These are the Tools you will need

Should a cock get feverish a drop of aconite in his water will cool him off but if he gets at all bad put him out as fever is a great weakener.

COCK BREAD RECIPE

One cup ground barley.
One cup ground corn meal.
One cup rolled oats or wheat.
One cup new fresh butter.
Three quarts fresh water.
Two cups pulverized sugar.
Twelve fresh eggs.
Two tablespoonfuls caraway seed.
Four tablespoonfuls yeast.
Good flour enough to make a stiff dough, let rise and bake soft.

WORK OF CONDITIONING

Anything that will give your cock the proper work to bring all of his muscles into play is alright for conditioning him. I know a man who shows cocks in very good shape that drives them around a room with a broom. You may use some original method of working your cocks and get good results. I give below a schedule of work for a main of cocks and you will find that it will put them in the pink of condition. Yon may vary it to suit yourself but above all things give them plenty of work. I do not mean by this to work a cock until he is unable to stand, but give him a fair amount of work. When he begins to breathe hard it is time to quit and sometimes before. You will have to judge your cocks and give some double the work that you do others.

You will need a running board. Any board that is ten or twelve feet long will do and it should be about a foot wide. Pad it so that it will not hurt the cocks' feet and fasten it solidly about three and one-half or four feet from the floor. At just the height that it will be handy for you to run the cocks on. In running, run cocks forward, backward and sidewise.

You will also need a flirting table. A screen door placed on two boxes at the proper height makes as good a flirting table as you can get. Put several blankets on it to make it soft for the cocks to light upon and it is ready.

These are really all the fixtures that you need, but I have been asked several times to describe proper wheels and swings to use in conditioning and so have decided to do so in this book.

A cheap wheel and one that serves every purpose is made from a barrel. Any barrel with both heads will do. Bore a hole in the center of each head and through these holes run an iron pipe or a smooth round pole, wedging same tight. Each end of this pipe or pole should be supported in some manner to allow the barrel to turn easily, either by a V shaped board or a board through which a hole of the proper size has been bored. The bottom of these boards should be securely fastened to the floor to give the wheel good solid support. Cover the barrel with several thicknesses of old carpet to keep cocks from slipping. Place barrel near a wall on which hang a mirror a little above the top of the barrel. In placing cock on the wheel, face him toward mirror and

turn wheel backward; this will make him exert himself to stay on top and get to his reflection in mirror.

Many consider this an excellent exercise and I believe that it is good.

A swing is a very easy thing to make. Suspend a roost about three feet long from the ceiling with two ropes. Place cock on roost and start same in motion. This gives a very good exercise.

I will give a little description of what I mean by some of the terms that I shall use in the following table.

Running—Placing your cock on one end of the running board and making him run the length of the board. At first it will probably be necessary for you to place one hand on the cock's back or fluff and one of his breast but after he becomes used to the exercise you will find that he will need no holding; you will simply have to give him the necessary motion.

Flirting—Placing your bird on the flirting table and by placing one hand under his breast raise him in the air and partly turn him at the same time and he will have to exert himself to regain his balance and strike on his feet. You can help to raise him with the other hand.

Another method of flirting is to place the cock with his tail toward you (in the first method the cock is sidewise to you) and raise and turn him backwards with the hands placed under his wings.. Of course in either case you let go of the cock as soon as you have raised and turned him, allowing him to right himself.

Rubbing—I have found that the best method for rubbing a cock is to place him on the floor or some solid surface, in front of the coop of another cock, and just out of reach of him. You will in this manner get the most work out of your cock as he will continually exert himself to reach the other cock, and in this manner use all of his muscles. Place one hand in front of his breast and with the other rub him on the back from hackle to tail pressing down and making him use his leg muscles. This is great exercise but you should be very careful not to strain your cock.

To keep your cock limber a good rub is grain alcohol one part and water two parts. Rub joints, legs and feet.

If you are to fight in the night cocks should be worked at least the five last days by artificial light.

Also spar cocks last time by artificial light and keep cock house so lighted if possible.

WORK FOR FOURTEEN DAY KEEP

1st day—Day of putting up, no work.

2nd day—Light exercise on the running board in the morning, a few flies on the flirting table and a light rub at night.

All exercise should be given before meals.

3nd day—Flirt your cock in the morning and a light rub and a few flies again at night.

It is impossible for me to tell you how many times to flirt or run your cock. I know that many conditioning books do this and you may be disappointed that this one does not, but I have found from experience that it is not possible to follow these rules when they are given and this book will not contain any information which is not practical. You will find that some cocks will stand twice the work that some others will. Work your cocks accordingly. Do not fatigue them but give them plenty of work and increase the work every day.

4th day—Flirt your cock in the morning and work him on the runing board at night.

5th day—Rub cock a few times and work him on the flirting table in the morning. Work on the running board at night.

6th day—Flirt cock in the morning and

rub him at night.

7th day—Run cock in the morning and flirt at night.

8th day—Flirt in the morning and rub at night.

The rubbing and running are intended for a very similar exercise, that is they develop the same muscles to a great extend and for this reason I use the flirting oftener than either of them.

9th day—Run your cock in the morning and flirt at night.

10th day—Rub cocks this morning and spar at night.

11th day—Flirt in the morning and run at night.

12th day—Rub in the morning and flirt at night.

13th day—Light work to-day. Flirt in the morning and run at night.

14th day—No work to-day and cocks kept in darkened coops most of the day to give them plenty of rest.

CONDITIONING STAGS

A number of cockers have written me to ask if I do not consider a 14 day keep too long

for stags. In reply to this, will say, I do not consider this time too long to have stags up but you must use judgment in regard to the work.

In the first place, stags are liable to come from their walks much more wild than cocks and I like to take the first few days to get acquainted with them and to get them accustomed to the work and you will find this time well spent. After this, you can go about the work the same as tho they are cocks only that you must bear in mind that they are not old seasoned warriors but are really in the same relation to cocks as boys to men and they must be brought to the height of their work and condition more gradually than cocks. Bearing these things in mind, you will find your 14 day keep none too long.

HEELS AND HEELING

Before the fight it is necessary to have a good pair of gaffs. Use as light a gaff as possible considering the weight of your cock. A heavy cock will handle a heavier pair of gaffs than a light cock or a stag.

There are many opinions as to the proper height of point and the height of point is of

more importance than the side set. Slow cocks should never fight in long heels no matter what their style of fighting. A fast, shuffling cock should be fought in long heels and a sparring, head hitting cock in short heels. Likewise a shuffling cock should be heeled with a higher point than a sparring cock, also with a more curved blade.

There is no secret about heeling. Keep cool and take your time. In heeling use a piece of firm leather cut about two inches square and with a one-half inch hole in the center. Place this over the stub of the natural heel and wrap firmly around the leg. Next place over the stub cross-wise narrow strips of leather about one and one-half inches long until the gaff fits firmly on the stub and be sure that it fits well down on the leg against the first piece of leather.

With a waxed-end about two and one-half feet long tie the gaff on firmly both above and below the socket and be sure that your cock's feet are not cramped. Let him walk around and see that he can put his feet down squarely and can use his toes freely.

In heeling you must use your common sense to a great extent as no two birds fight alike, but you can use the following rules with good results.

1¼ inch Gaff, Left on inside line of leader. Right on outside line of leader.

1½ inch Gaff, Left on center of leg. Right on line with outside of leg.

2¼ inch Gaff, Left on line with back edge of knee joint. Right ⅛ inch back of knee joint.

With a good gaff set in this manner on a game, fighting chicken, you have a right to expect your part of the money every time. The longer the gaff the farther the point must be thrown out.

To find the leader of a cock's leg, work the back toe and you will see the leader rise and fall at the knee joint.

Tie gaffs on firmly but be very careful not to tie so tight as to cord cock's leg. This will draw up his toes and make it impossible for him to handle himself in good shape. You should walk your cock around after heeling to accustom him to using his feet after the heels have been tied on.

To heel a slipleg cock you need a piece of shoemaker's wax and a strip of adhesive tape about 18 inches long. Make the wax into shape of a natural spur and place where natural spur should be. Bind this on firmly with the adhesive tape and heel over same. This will bring you good results.

The very best article for heeling a slipleg cock is one of the properly built artificial stubs, that make a slipleg cock equal in every way to a cock with his natural stubs.

Another thing, if you do not feel satisfied that you can properly tie on gaffs for best results, supply yourself with a pair of "self-setting" gaffs, made by some man in whom you have confidence. The sockets of these gaffs are scientifically built to set the point in proper position and they do it.

PITTING

There are a hundred different sets of rules under which cock fighting is conducted. I shall not attempt to give any of them here. You should have a good rule book before doing any pitting. Get well acquainted with the set under which you are to fight or the opposing pitter may have a decided advantage over you.

If you are not familiar with any given set of rules and have a strain of game, fighting cocks, make your match "dead cock or run away to lose." Under this arrangement it is the cock and not the pitter that wins the fight.

Handle your own cock. Otherwise you

may lose the fight by foul play rather than fowl play. It is an easy matter for a pitter to break a cock's leg or otherwise injure him. Let no man in whom you have not absolute confidence handle your cocks before battle, and have your cocks always under your eye after reaching the battle ground. There may be some unscrupulous person, unknown even to your opponent, who wishes to see you beaten and who will stoop to some dirty trick to accomplish this end.

Keep cool. When billing your cock let him lay over your left arm and put this around him in such a way that he will not flap his wings and lose energy before he is pitted. With the right hand hold his feet and be careful that you do not cut yourself or the cock on the gaffs. Let the other cock bite him rather than not as it will cause him to become enraged and he will immediately go for retaliation when pitted.

When the word is given to pit cocks, place your cock squarely on his feet in such a manner that he will see the other cock. A good handler should be a man quick to see and as quick to act, for it is of the utmost importance to take every advantage within the rules.

See that your opponent has fair heels.

Try to pit your cock first when the word is given and be ready to handle at once the cocks are hung. If your cock is in your opponent's cock, your opponent pulls the heels. In this case you should take hold of the leg of your cock, which is hung, as low down as the knee joint, to prevent your opponent from wrenching your cock's leg. If the opposing cock is in your cock you will pull the gaffs.

Always pit your cock fairly. No man can win consistently if he is looking for a chance to foul the other bird. Not only does this practice lose fights but it also black lists the man who uses it, with all honest cockers.

If your cock is on his back and needs wind let him lie in this position as he will not be liable to get injured and he is liable to kill the other cock.

If your cock is rattled, by being cut in the throat, get him pitted as soon as possible. Should he become blinked be sure to pit him so that he can see the other cock.

Always handle an injured cock gently. The pulling and twisting some men give an injured cock is enough to make him quit.

In a couple, rub gently on the back from hackle to tail. This is not a case where a bone is out of place, as many handlers seem

to believe, but rather an injury to a nerve causing the cock to lose the use of his legs.

A wry neck is very similar except that this is caused by an injury to the spinal cord and the neck is affected. A little cold water on the back of the head will sometimes relieve this as will a gentle rubbing of the back of the head.

In a throat cut, get the blood out if possible to keep your fowl from filling up and suffocating. Open the mouth and shake head and neck from side to side or work blood down into crop.

If you are sure you have a game cock, give your opponent's bird all the time possible to cool off if injured. If your cock becomes badly injured place him legs up under his breast and place him on the ground in this position and if the other cock comes over he is in a good position to get a bill hold and is not liable to get hurt, being low on the ground

Should cocks get badly injured and it comes to a breast, do not allow your opponent to place his cock's bill on the hackle or shoulder of your cock. This gives him an advantage which is unfair as cocks should be breasted beak to beak.

CARE OF COCKS AFTER BATTLE

Cocks after battle, if badly cut, usually become feverish, the mouth fills up with canker and cocks become worthless or die, unless they are properly cared for.

As soon after battle as possible give your cock a cup of bread and buttermilk. If you cannot get buttermilk use sweet milk but the buttermilk is much better. This allays his fever and soothes the whole system and is the best thing that you can do for your cock no matter what you have at hand. His wounds should be treated with an ointment made for the purpose, and especially intended for poultry flesh, but if such an ointment is not at hand, wash the wound and apply carbolized vaseline or turpentine and sweet oil, equal parts.

Every cocker should go to the pit side prepared to treat each cock as he comes from the pit. After he has offered his life and limb for your money you cannot do less than to use him well afterwards.

If a cock gets a leg broken put it in place and with a thin piece of wood the width of the leg, on each side of it begin to wind it with a firm bandage. As you wind this bandage pour a very thin mxiture of plaster paris and water on the bandage and keep bandage wet

with this mixture, winding it in. Tie securely but do not cord the leg. Wind a thicker bandage over this bandage and in a short time the plaster paris will harden and you can remove the outer bandage. Leave other bandage in place until leg is healed.

A broken wing can be treated much the same as a broken leg. The feathers should be removed from the wing where fractured and usually the splints cannot be used but after winding with the bandage soaked in the plaster paris the wing should be bound to the body in a natural position and should so remain until healed.

Cocks that get canker in the mouth should either be treated with a good canker remedy or else by removing the canker and rubbing the spots over with burnt alum and sulphur.

Cocks that have been rendered temporarily blind should have their heads bathed frequently with cold water. A little salt added occasionally will do no damage.

A GOOD STYLE COOP CUP

PART THREE

Poultry Diseases

THEIR CAUSES, SYMPTOMS, TREATMENT AND CURE

Bad breeding, improper housing and poor feeding are the leading causes of disease in poultry.

"Like produces like" and, if you breed immature, sickly, runty stock, you will get the same characteristics in the offspring. It is likewise true that you cannot cure diseases of the respiratory organs in a damp, dirty house, full of cracks and holes nor can you hope to cure bowel troubles if you continue to feed sloppy, sour, mouldy feeds.

There is greater danger from carelessness than from disease and, while the remedies given in this chapter are all reliable, tested remedies, yet I wish to impress it upon you that as much depends upon your care as upon the remedies. You must co-operate in order to get best results. Provide clean, dry, properly ventilated quarters and feed sound,

sweet grains and vegetables, with pure water, and the chances are that you will not have disease in your flocks but, if by chance you do have trouble, you will find the following remedies to be thoroughly reliable.

DISEASES OF THE RESPIRATORY ORGANS

Diseases of the respiratory organs are probably the most common of all poultry diseases and, while not so immediately fatal as some others, they are of a lingering type which makes fowl worthless while having the trouble and, if not properly treated, leaves them in no better condition.

Roup

Roup is a purulent catarrahal disease of the air passages the primary causes of which are exposure to wet, cold and draughs. Damp quarters and houses that are ventilated by cracks and holes in the walls are sure roup producers. After roup once starts in a flock, it quickly spreads, unless immediate steps are taken to check it.

The symptoms, in the first stages, are a watery discharge from the nostrils and an inflammation of the eyes and the mucous mem-

brane of the nostrils. Later the discharge thickens, clogging the throat, nostrils and duct to the eye and causing the eye to bulge out. In the last stages the bird becomes blind, the eye cavities being filled with a cheesy substance. In this stage the inflammation extends to the entire surface of the membranes of the nose, mouth, throat and windpipe, stagnating the nutritive processes, poisoning the blood and soon causing death. It is the pus discharge in the last stages which disseminates or spreads the disease. Feed and water vessels should be scalded every day, all diseased fowl should be removed from the flocks and pine tar, turpentine and sulphur should be burned in the poultry houses, after the fowl have been let out and all openings closed up. These are preventative precautions.

Nasal Injections for Colds and Roup

There seems to be considerable diversity of opinion in regard to the merits of nasal injections for colds, roup and affections of the membranes of the nose and air passages. In order to properly understand how these applications can be of value, it is well to first know the construction of the head of the fowl and to know how to apply the remedy in a proper manner. There are three sections or

divisions to the nostril of a fowl. The two lower ones are really sub-divisions or sub-passages which do not connect with the throat cavity direct but which join the upper passage back toward the eye. This being the case, in order to get best results from injections of this kind, it is well to see that the syringe is inserted in this upper passage. It is possible to get results by using either of the lower passages but more pressure is required from the syringe and even then the application is liable to be only partial.

This main passage connects directly with the throat through the small slit which you can see at the back of the mouth and there is also a duct leading to the eye. It is this duct that swells in cold or roup and gives the puffy appearance below the eyes.

There can be little doubt that there is great value in injections of proper remedies applied in proper manner. This is especially true in colds and light cases of roup and a proper knowledge of such treatment is invaluable as many times one application of a proper lotion will bring about an immediate cure.

One of the best simple remedies to use is crude petroleum and many times it works wonders. Another, and one of the very best

is turpentine and olive oil equal parts into which has been placed all the camphor gum that the oil will take up. A few drops of carbolic acid is also an addition. In cases where colds have developed into dry roup and rattles, these applications are a valuable assistant to some constitutional remedy for cleansing the system and bringing about a permanent cure.

A small sewing machine oiler, one with a flexible bottom, is the best instrument for applying these applications as it has the proper amount of force and is easily adjusted.

When Nasal Injections Fail

After the first stages of roup, the blood becomes poisoned and there is a necessity for a more vigorous treatment than simply a soothing lotion applied to the affected parts.

Very like diseases in the human family, where one remedy cures one case it sometimes fails in the next and another is necessary. However the following will be found to be a very reliable treatment and one which seldom fails to bring about a cure. At the first signs of roup give the bird a dose of Epsom Salts and follow this, at night for three nights, with a two grain quinine pill. Also swab out the throat with a strong solution of Chlorate of Potassium. Feed daily a warm mash into

which has been mixed a teaspoonful each of Carbonate of Iron and Sulphur to each four quarts of ground feed.

A good deal depends on the proper care of your fowl. The quarters should be kept clean and dry, with lime on dropping boards and floors. You should have good ventilation, avoiding cracks and overhead openings. Very little corn or meat food should be given. Wheat and oats are the best grain feeds for roupy fowl with plenty of green stuff and pure water. A little carbolic acid or hypo-sulphite of soda in the drinking water will many times be found of value.

Dyphtheria

Dyphtheria, or what is commonly known as Dyphtheric Roup, is a dangerous disease as it is communicable to children and, when it has gained much headway, it is safest to kill the bird.

In this disease, the head becomes hot and red from fever and the throat fills up with a thick, white mucous which forms into a membrane and white ulcers appear on the throat walls.

If the bird is of sufficient value to warrant treatment, spray the throat with Peroxide of

Hydrogen, give a dessertspoonful of Castor Oil each night for three nights and feed a warm mash of bran or ground oats into which has been mixed one teaspoonful each of Carbonate of Iron, Ginger and Sulphur to each four quarts of ground feed. Isolate affected birds and disinfect quarters thoroughly and often.

Rattles or Bronchitis

The chief symptom of this disease is a rattling in the throat from labored breating.

Give fowl a physic of Epsom Salts or a little pulverized Rhubarb and drop a drop of the Liquid Roup Cure, given in the first of this chapter, into the windpipe. Repeat this last treatment daily until cure is affected.

In some cases "Rattles" is a symptom of consumption. In such cases the fowl rapidly grows light in weight and there is no treatment that will bing satisfactory results.

Canker or Sore Throat

Small sores or ulcers appear on the throat walls in this disease.

Remove the cheesy substance from these sores and wash the raw surface underneath with Peroxide of Hydrogen, afterward applying powdered burnt alum or Sub-Sulphite of

Iron. Fowl should be given a physic and a few drops of Sub-Sulphite of Iron in the drinking water is valuable.

This disease spreads rapidly as the exudation from the sores is a virulent poison which contaminates soft feeds and drinking water and all feed and water vessels should be scalded daily.

Chicken Pox or Sore Head

This disease is very closely allied with Roup, in fact it is a result of aggravated cases of Roup. The nasal passages become clogged and the poisons thrown off cause scabby sores to appear on the head and many times the eyes are affected and some times destroyed.

The treatment is the same as for the advanced stages of Roup, (See under Roup, When Nasal Injections Fail) and anoint the sores with Carbolated Vaseline or apply a wash made as follows: 3 parts Grain Alcohol, 1 part pure water and all the tannin the mixture will dissolve. Be careful not to get this in the patient's eyes.

BOWEL TROUBLES

When the excrement secreted by the kidneys, which is normally pure white, appears yellow, look out for bowel trouble. Watch the dropping boards, it may save fowl and money.

Cholera

Genuine Cholera is the most dangerous of all poultry diseases as it will often destroy a whole flock in a few days.

Cholera is caused by a specific germ, peculiar to this disease and it should not be confounded with common Diarrhœa or Dysentery.

The symptoms are full crop and great thirst, high fever and a purple color of the comb and wattles, caused by the blood becoming thick and almost black in color. Fowl have a droopy appearance and the feathers stand out loosely from the body. The droppings are of a yellowish or greenish color and, in the last stages frothy.

The germ of Cholera is not spread through the air but through the soil, which is infected by the droppings. Disinfect the houses and runs with an application of a weak solution of Sulphuric Acid and water. Also use lime

liberally and if possible spade or plow up runs that have been inhabitated by infected fowl.

It is best to remove all diseased fowl from the flocks, to separate quarters and, if one dies, burn or bury deep.

Give fowl not infected one-half pound of Venetian Red dissolved in a pail of water every other day, allowing no other drinking water on those days.

At the first symptoms of the disease, dark comb and doopy appearanoe, give each fowl a teaspoonful dose of a mixture one-half turpentine and one-half olive oil, repeating once each day. Seclude fowl and feed very lightly or not at all for a couple of days; then feed a light mash feed of ban or gound oats, with hulls sifted out, to which has been added a teaspoonful each of black pepper and ginger to each four quarts oof feed. Water at all times liberally with fresh water, adding five drops of Sub-sulphite of Iron and five drops of Spirits of Nitre to the quart of water.

If the above treatment is carefully followed and quarters are kept clean the worst attack of Cholera upon a flock may be checked at once and soon cured.

White Diarrhoea

The causes of Diarrhœa are numerous, but exposure, eating mouldy or sour food and drinking impure water are the most common causes.

The special symptom of White Diarrhœa and that which identifies it from the other forms of this complaint is that the discharges are white. Any case of diarrhœa in chickens is serious enough but White Diarrhœa is considered by many well-informed poultrymen to be the greatest scourge of the poultry business, as millions of dollars worth of chicks are lost every year from this trouble. Many times 90% of a flock attacked by this disease die.

Bacteriologists tell us that the germ of White Diarrhœa belongs to the same group of bacteria as does the germ causing typhoid fever in man. It may be transmitted to chicks through infected food and water and by coming in contact with diseased chicks; also it is many times transmitted from a diseased hen to the egg and thence to the chick. Such chicks are very liable to show signs of the disease in a few hours after hatching and, if not speedily treated, usually died in a few days at most.

This disease is very deadly and yields only to the best treatment but the following will be found to give very satisfactory results.

One-half grain each of Sugar of Lead, Pulverized Opium, Gum Capsicum to twelve small chicks and increasing with the size. This can be mixed with bread crumbs slightly moistened and made into pills or mixed with soft feed, use only a small quantity of feed in order that the chicks will eat it readily.

All well birds should be removed to new quarters and soil and infected quarters disinfected with a weak solution of Sulphuric Acid and water.

Diarrhoea

For the ordinary forms of Diarrhœa, a few drops of Paregoric, one drop to the smallest chick and increasing with the size, will be found a reliable cure.

Dysentery

Overfeeding is the cause of this trouble. The bowels, in tyring to do the work of a stagnant liver, greatly increase their action to throw off the offensive matter.

The chief symptom is frequent straining with cramps and even spasms. The urates are often streaked with blood.

Give the fowl a purgative to clear up the

system. Epsom Salts, Castor Oil or Powdered Rhubarb will do the work. Afterwards for a few days, feed light feed such as oat meal or ground oats with shucks removed and wheat bran.

GENERAL POULTRY DISEASES

Scurvy

This trouble is caused by lack of green food and filthy quarters and is really a condition rather than a disease.

The comb is covered with a white scurf and the trouble sometimes extends to the head and neck, causing the feathers to fall off.

Change fowl to clean quarters and give a dose of Castor Oil or Epsom Salts. Feed green feeds and light mashes into which have been mixed a small quantity of Sulphur and Carbonate of Iron.

Apply a good poultry ointment or carbolated vaseline.

Favus

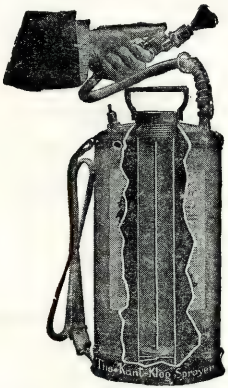
This disease is said to be produced by a vegetable parasite and is called by some "Comb Disease."

The treatment given for scurvy will be found to be effective for Favus.

Gapes

The characteristic symptom of this disease is the gasping or suppressed coughing of the chick. Only comparatively young chicks are affected and from this we draw the conclusion that the larger stock are strong enough to throw off the trouble without perceptible injury.

The disease is caused by a small red worm which lodges in the trachea or windpipe and, as they grow in size and numbers, they impede the breathing and cause the gasping sound. They range in size from mere specks



It Pays Every Poultryman to Spray Thoroughly and Often

to upward of an inch in length and sometimes a dozen or more are found in the windpipe of one chick, and altho a chick so affected is not constitutionally sick, yet, the continued and increased impediment in breathing soon overcomes its strength and it dies.

The best method of treatment is to take a hen's wing feather and strip off the web, all except a small tip at the end. Dip this into a solution one-half Sweet Oil and one-half Turpentine and insert into the windpipe of the chick, run well down, twist and withdraw. You will probably get some of the worms on your feather and the others will be dislodged or killed and will be thrown off by the chick. One application will usually do the trick but you should watch your chicks and repeat if necessary.

One ounce of Creolin to a gallon of water makes a fine spray to use on ground where chicks with gapes have run. Also dust quarters with air slacked lime.

Limberneck

Limberness or Limpness would be a better name for this diease as the whole body is as limp as the proverbial dish rag, when a fowl is attacked by this disease. In fact, this is the main symptom of the the disease altho it is attended by enlargement of the pupils of the

eves showing that the disease is due to poisoning.

The disease proper is ptomaine poisoning, caused by eating decayed animal or vegetable matter and the limberness is merely a symptom of the disease. The poison affects the nerve system, paralyzing it and that in turn acts upon all the processes of the body, stagnating them and, if this condition is not relieved at once, the fowl dies.

The best treatment that I have ever used and one which I have never known to fail, if fowl was not so weak, from allowing disease to go unchecked, that the system was unable to respond to the treatment, is as follows: give fowl one-half teaspoonful of good whiskey in two teaspoonfuls of water to stimulate system. Give a piece of gum asafœtida the size of a small pea. Repeat this last treatment in 48 hours. The whiskey and water may be given every four hours if necessary to assist the action of the heart and keep the fowl from collapse.

Scaly or Scabby Legs

Rough, unsightly shanks in fowl are indicative of this disease, and filthy quarters are productive of it.

The mite causing scaly legs is a particularly annoying pest and very prevalent. It burrows under the natural scales on the legs and, by its irritation, causes an exudation of which the enlarged, scaly portion is formed. The disease is spread usually by well fowl roosting with fowl having the trouble as the mites pass from one to the other by means of the roosts.

Spray all roosts and nests with kerosene oil or a solution 25 parts water to one part carbolic acid.

Anoint legs of affected fowl with an ointment made from carbolated vaseline to which has been added one part Creolin to ten parts vaseline. It is a good plan to bandage legs after applying ointment, to keep dirt from sticking to them and the ointment from getting wiped off. Apply daily until a cure is affected.

Bumble Foot

In bumble foot, the ball of the foot becomes enlarged and inflamed and a growth similar to a corn appears on the sole of the foot.

This trouble is usually caused by roosts being too high without sufficient litter on the floors and by running on hard, dry ground in

small runs. At the first signs of the trouble, if the roosts are lowered and plenty of litter placed on the floors, it will usually right itself.

After the foot has become considerably inflamed, it is best to apply a flax-seed poultice to draw the swelling to a head, when it should be lanced and the pus removed. Wash out the wound with a weak solution of carbolic acid and water and then with Peroxide of Hydrogen. After this wash with warm water and apply carbolated vaseline and bandage the foot to keep out the dirt. Wash each day with castile soap and warm water, afterward with Peroxide of Hydrogen and repeat ointment, bandaged on, until cured.

Corns

With a sharp knife, remove the center of the corn which will leave a small hole in the foot; into this hole, force a piece of blue vitrol the size of a wheat kernel and bandage the foot. In three days remove the bandage and you will find that the vitrol has killed all the corn tissue and that it has turned black and can be easily pealed out and removed. If any of this corn tissue is still alive, you can repeat the vitrol treatment but, if not, apply plenty of good ointment and bandage the foot.

Change this application every 2 days until the foot is well again.

Crop Bound

The symptoms of Crop Bound are so obvious that it is not necessary to mention them here. The distended crop is the only essential symptom to recognize the disease. Should you have a fowl with a very full crop and that shows signs of droopiness and lack of life, confine in a coop with no food for 24 hours and, if the crop is still full, you have a well defined case of Crop Bound.

There are three general causes of Crop Bound in fowl and three recognized treatments.

The cause which is least liable to bring serious results is that of the fowl gorging until the crop is so full that the muscles of the lining are unable to contract sufficiently to force the food through the opening into the gizzard. This may be readily overcome by giving the fowl a liberal dose of Castor Oil, to soften the mass, and then by working the crop with the hands you can assist in forcing the food through the opening into the gizzard and so relieve the situation. Or you can remove the contents by one of the methods given

later but it will hardly be necessary to open the crop in such a case as this.

A more serious cause of crop bound comes from the fowl swallowing tough grass, hay or straw, feathers or some other substance which forms into a mass and clogs the passage from the crop to the gizzard. It is sometimes possible to remove this cause with the oil and massage treatment but not usually. The best treatment that I have ever used for a case of this kind is as follows: fill a fountain syringe full of luke warm water, having the shut off in the tube closed. Hang bag well up on the wall and, with the fowl near the floor, gently force the nozzle of the syringe down the throat and into the crop. When it is well into the lower side of the crop, open the shut off and allow the water to flow. The crop will become distended and, by working rapidly with the hand and removing the tube from the throat, you can force out a quantity of the food which has accumulated. Repeat this until you have removed all, or practically all, of the food and probably by this time you have dislodged the obstruction causing the trouble. Give your fowl a tablespoonful of Castor Oil and place in a warm coop until morning. If the crop is not entirely empty the next morning,

you may be sure that you have not removed the obstruction and you must do the work over again, endeavoring to get as much pressure as possible on the crop, with the water and the massage, to drive the passage clear. If you fail in this the only course left is to open the crop.

Opening the crop is a delicate operation and, if you have never performed the operation or seen it performed by a man who understood the proper method, the chances are that you will lose your bird but the experience may be valuable to you in your next case of the kind. Anyway the fowl will die unless you do make an effort and die a lingering death which is much worse than to die from the operation. The proper and humane method is to chloroform your fowl and have your assistant keep it chloroformed.

After you have your fowl under the influence of the drug, pluck the feathers in a straight line down the crop. With a sharp knife cut a gash in the outer skin about an inch long, slide the skin around, so as not to have the gashes come opposite, and cut a gash of the same length in the crop wall. Through these openings you can remove any and all substances in the crop and passage to the

gizzard or force any obstruction into the gizzard. Wash out the crop with a weak solution of carbolic acid and water after which sew up each incision with white silk thread. Place the fowl in a clean, dry coop and give a little Olive oil. Feed sparingly on soft feed for a few days and give buttermilk to drink.

The worst form of Crop Bound is caused by stricture of the passage from the crop to the gizzard. This is sometimes caused by an injury by some hard, sharp substance passing through this small passage and the healing process partly closing it. At other times it is caused by a thickening of the walls of the passage. If this stricture becomes complete there is nothing that you can do to assist the fowl and, if you could be sure that such was the real trouble, it would be a great kindness to kill the fowl so afflicted as it means only a lingering death. Where the passage is only partly closed but the crop contains some substance that will not pass through the opening, you should remove the contents of the crop and give the fowl soft food only.

Leg Weakness

A fowl with this trouble squats on the ground frequently and staggers in its walk.

The cause is feeding too much fat forming food and too little muscle and bone making food. It is also caused by fowl being on dry floors for long periods and in chicks from continued heat.

The best plan is to place affected fowl on the ground and feed light feeds, like oats, bran and clover with liberal rations of cut green vegetable matter. Proper care and feed will usually overcome this trouble without drugs. In case the fowl does not improve in a few days give a soft mash into which has been mixed a teaspoonful of Carbonate of Iron to four quarts of ground feed.

Worms

Loss of appetite and a shabby appearance are signs of worms in a fowl.

Give a tablespoonful of Castor Oil into which has been dropped ten drops of Spirits of Turpentine. Repeat the second day if necessary.

Apoplexy

This disease is usually caused by overfeeding but sometimes comes from fright. Fowl act dizzy and run around unsteadily.

Give a tablespoonful of Castor Oil and feed on light diet for a few days. If fowl does

not improve, bleed from vein under wing and give five drops of Belladonna to a quart of drinking water.

Paralysis

Paralysis comes from much the same cause, as does Apoplexy and responds to the same treatment. It differs in that fowl usually loses the use of limbs and lies helpless.

Rheumatism

Caused by exposure to dampness and colds, this trouble usually yields to proper care and treatment. The symptoms are stiffness and swelling of the joints. Remove to dry, comfortable quarters and feed plenty of green food and light mashes, adding a teaspoonful each of red pepper and mustard to each four quarts of ground feed. Avoid corn and meat feeds.

Egg Bound

The symptoms of this disease are an uneasiness and frequent going on the nest without laying. Over-fat hens are so troubled often.

Give a light diet with plenty of green stuff.

To relieve hen, dip finger in sweet oil and insert into oviaduct. If the egg is too large to be removed the only remedy is to break it and move the parts.

Avoid corn feeds, meat and stimulating diet of all kinds.

Notes on Pests and Conditions which can hardly be termed Disease

Feather Eating, while not a disease, is a habit which is worse than many of the diseases as one feather eating hen will spoil the looks of a whole flock. There is little doubt but that this habit is caused from the hen craving animal food and salt. A good plan is to hang a piece of salt pork in the pen where the fowl can pick at it. This will not bring about a cure for hens already having the habit, but will satisfy the craving of others and so prevent their taking it up.

To cure, take a little fresh butter and rub into it as much powdered Aloes as possible. Rub this on the fowl that have been feather eaten, where the feathers have been removed and on nearby feathers. This will do two things. It will stop the feather puller from working on these fowl and it will promote the growth of new feathers.

Mites develope with marvelous rapidity in hot weather. Kerosene and Kerosene Emulsion, to which has been added a little crude carbolic acid, if used weekly and thoroughly in the poultry houses, will keep them free from these pests.

The dust bath is one of the best methods of ridding fowl from lice. The dust fills up the breathing holes in the skin and so kills lice.

China eggs thrown in the litter so that hens become used to seeing them about are a fine remedy for egg eating.

Hens that are over-fed on fat forming foods are liable to drop feathers. Feed light rations and plenty of green stuff to remedy this trouble.

To kill rats, place corn meal in handy dishes and, after rats get to eating it, mix in a little arsenic. You will have no bad odors as arsenic is a preservative.

Vaseline is fine for frosted combs and wattles.

CONCLUSION

I have endeavored to make this work perfectly plain and easily understood but, if there is any part of it which looks dark to you, I shall be pleased to have you write me regarding it and I will endeavor to dispel the shadows.

More than this, I shall be pleased to make suggestions and aid you in any way possible in your breeding, cocking or treatment of fowl. While my methods are not infallible yet I have had years of experience along these lines and you are welcome to any knowledge which I may have gained in this time.